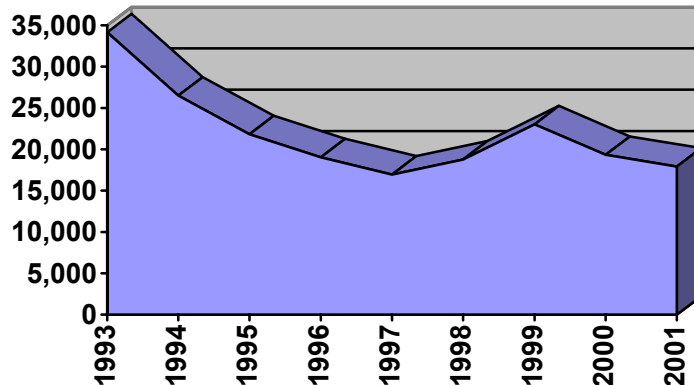


Extent of Noxious Weeds in the County

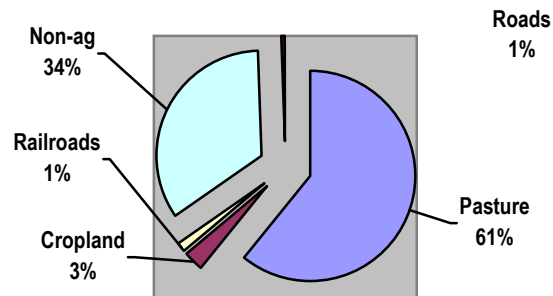
Noxious weed acres in the county had been on a declining trend from 1993 to 1998. The sole reason for this decline was the result of the control efforts of both public and private landowners. 1993 and 1998 did not follow this trend. Moisture conditions these two years resulted in more noxious weeds germinating and made control more difficult. In the spring of 1999, the growing season started early with mild temperatures and good soil moisture. As a result, seeds dormant in the soil as well as newly produced seeds germinated to increase the total number of infested acres. Acres then dropped to 17,924 in 2001, almost 50% of the 1993 acres.

All land uses have infestations of noxious weeds. Approximately 10% of the pastureland acres are infested. Non-ag land, which includes the City of Lincoln and rural lots, is second in the amount of noxious weed infestations with over 5% of the acres infested. Cropland infestations are found mostly in alfalfa fields and idle cropland. The most visible infestations are on Roadsides and Railroads. Yet they have less than 2% of

ACRES OF NOXIOUS WEEDS

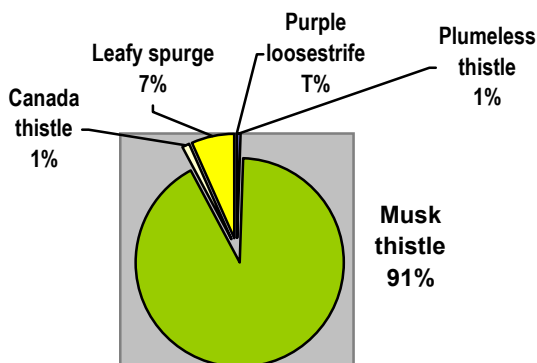


Infested Acres by Land Use



Infested Acres by Weed

23,035 acres



the total infested acres. There has been an aggressive control effort on these transportation corridors resulting in a sharp drop in the acres infested.

Over 3% of the land area is infested with noxious weeds. Musk thistle makes up 91% of the noxious weed infested area. Musk thistle has been found in almost all the sections in the county. Leafy Spurge does not cover a lot of acres, but it has been found on over 400 sites and in 1 out of 7 sections. Plumeless Thistle and Canada Thistle infest less than 5 acres.